<center>REMARKS</center>

<u>Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102</u>

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, 12, 16-19, 21, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,347 issued to Abella et al. (*Abella*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, 12, 16-19, 21, and 25-27 are anticipated by *Abella*.

Claim 1 recites, in part, the following:

> a speech understanding mechanism to determine the literal meaning of input speech data;
> a dialog semantics learning mechanism to establish semantic models based on annotated dialog training data, the annotated dialog training data associating literal meaning of input speech data with one or more semantic meanings of the input speech data; and
> **a statistical dialog manager to interpret and select one semantic meaning of the input speech data based on both the literal meaning of the input speech data and corresponding semantic models that are associated with the literal meaning of the input speech data.**

Claims 8, 16 and 25 recite similar limitations.

The Office action cites *Abella* as teaching the limitations of claim 1. Particularly, *Abella* is cited as disclosing a statistical dialog manager to interpret and select one semantic meaning of the input speech data based on both the literal meaning of the input speech data and corresponding semantic models that are associated with the literal meaning of the input speech data as claimed. The cited portion of *Abella* discusses a dialog processing system. See column 7, lines 47-67. In particular, *Abella* states that after user input (a sentence or utterance) comes into the system, the meaning of the utterance is then extracted and placed in a semantic tree representation. See column 7, lines 56-59. *Abella* offers no description to explain how the meaning of an utterance is extracted. *Abella* then discusses using the semantic tree to determine if the system should execute one of a number of dialogue motivating algorithms. See column 7,

lines 59-63. The dialogue motivating algorithms disambiguate an utterance by using the semantic decision tree to generate follow-up questions. See column 7, lines 57-59. In other words, *Abella* requires the asking of follow-up questions in order to disambiguate user input (i.e. a statement, utterance, etc.).

In contrast, claim 1 recites a statistical dialog manager to interpret and select one semantic meaning of the input speech data based on both the literal meaning of the input speech data and corresponding semantic models that are associated with the literal meaning of the input speech data. *Abella* does not teach these limitations. Thus, Applicant submits claims 1, 8, 16 and 25 are not anticipated by *Abella*.

Claims 3-4 depend from claim 1. Claims 9-10 and 12 depend from claim 8. Claims 17-19 and 21 depend from claim 16. Claims 26-27 depend from claim 25. Given that dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of they claims from which they depend, Applicant respectfully submits claims 3-4, 9-10, 12, 17-19, 21, and 26-27 are not anticipated by *Abella* for at least the reasons described above.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Abella* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,865,528 issued to Huang et al. (*Huang*). Applicant respectfully submits claims 2, 11 and 20 are not obvious in view of *Abella* and *Huang* for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claims 2, 11 and 20 depend from claims 1, 8 and 16, respectively. Dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. As discussed above with respect to the independent claims, *Abella* fails to disclose a statistical dialog manager to interpret and select one semantic meaning of the input speech data based on both the literal

meaning of the input speech data and corresponding semantic models that are associated with the literal meaning of the input speech data, as claimed. *Huang* is cited as disclosing speech recognition based on at least one acoustic model and a language understanding mechanism. Whether or not *Huang* teaches the limitations cited in the Office action, *Huang* does not teach or disclose a statistical dialog manager to interpret and select one semantic meaning of the input speech data based on both the literal meaning of the input speech data and corresponding semantic models that are associated with the literal meaning of the input speech data. Thus, *Huang* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Abella*. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 2, 11 and 20 are not obvious in view of *Abella* and *Huang*.
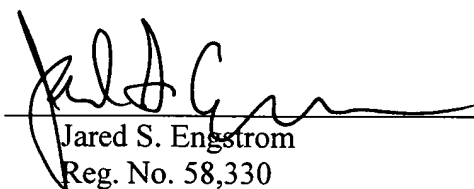
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant submits claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-22 and 25-27 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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